



Native Women's Association of Canada  
L'Association des femmes autochtones du Canada

# **Incarceration and Intergenerational Effects of MMIWG2S+:**

A Toolkit for Aiding in Safe  
Release from Carceral  
Institutions

## INCARCERATION AND INTERGENERATIONAL EFFECTS OF MMIWG2S+: A TOOLKIT FOR AIDING IN SAFE RELEASE FROM CARCERAL INSTITUTIONS

Incarcerated Indigenous WG2STGD People are highly vulnerable. This vulnerability is directly linked to the MMIWG2S+ genocide. To address the conditions that make these individuals more vulnerable as well as reduce the likelihood of violence, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) has developed this toolkit. Holistic in nature, this resource focuses on a whole-of-government approach. For more information, please see [A Metastasizing Problem: Incarceration and Intergenerational Effects of MMIWG2S+. Five Policy Research Papers on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender-Diverse People.](#)

### THE TOOLKIT OFFERS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Implement counselling services that address trauma and grief rooted in anti-colonial, anti-oppressive, and anti-racist values and principles.**

- Services should be provided by Indigenous professionals or professionals from the community to which the person currently incarcerated will return.
- Specialized professionals for Indigenous Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse People who are currently incarcerated must also be available to those who identify as such.



02

**Ensure a pre-existing relationship with a social worker is well established before release.**

- Provide access to social workers upon intake.
- The social worker must have connections or relationships with the community to which the person currently incarcerated will choose to return to, with adequate cultural competency and an Indigenous Knowledge base.
- Ideally, this person is from an outside support program or Indigenous community or organization.
- Visits should be set up with children of the person currently incarcerated, and reunification efforts should be supported before release through a Family Liaison Worker. This will help maintain relationships while incarcerated and assist in the transition of release.

03

**Create an Indigenous-specific program to provide wrap-around services for Indigenous People currently incarcerated with children.**

- These services would include child and family services, housing supports, and employment services.
- We recommend re-evaluating the Institutional Mother-Child Program eligibility requirements (for example, revision of age and full-time/part-time) and extending limits beyond bloodline to include kinship as well as services for Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Diverse People.

04

**Provide funds for repatriation and transportation of the recently released individual.**

- This includes costs of public transportation, food, and clothing vouchers.



**Before the release date, consider all basic needs and prepare subsidies or funding for housing, food, and living costs.**

05

- Adequate funding must be provided for those with children.
- All funding must be available before the release date to ensure no one is leaving with no place to go.



**Release only during the day.**

06

- This ensures fair access to transportation and services and reduces the risk of violence.
- Offer to provide a community liaison person, who can support individuals who are being released

07

**Create paid work programs for individuals leaving incarceration.**

- It is pertinent that these jobs pay a living wage at a minimum; minimum wage is not sufficient in most urban areas.
- Ensure jobs are accessible.
- Provide support to people currently incarcerated to ensure they can obtain or complete the requirements of employment before release.

08

**Create culturally based, trauma-informed healing lodges that recently released individuals without a place to go can access upon release.**

- Must be in partnership with, but not run by Correctional Services Canada or Public Safety.
- Located near federal institutions.
- Parole officers must be knowledgeable of cultural and community connections upon release.
- Further access to programming on healthy relationships, addictions, human rights, and further education if desired.

09

**Connect the person who will be released to appropriate cultural services.**

- Access to cultural supports needs to be accessible to all Indigenous People who desire to access them. Access should not be awarded or removed based on behaviour and punishment.
- Recently released individuals should be connected to an Indigenous community liaison officer, who can help the individual find cultural services and support organizations.



**Provide a release package with the phone numbers of organizations that provide support, as well as other resources and helpful materials.**

10

- Access to third-party or non-governmental legal advocates that individuals can consult and seek legal advice at no cost before they are released.





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